



School Wars

Understanding what they are and what you can do to safeguard your children.



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What are 'School Wars'?



'School wars', or 'School Rivalries', are a growing social media trend targeting secondary school-aged children.



Through social media platforms such as Tik Tok and Snapchat, posts are shared between students.



These posts encourage groups of students from different schools to confront each other, sometimes leading to planned fights after school in public places.



Police on alert after 'school wars' incite pupils to carry knives

Why This Trend is Dangerous

VIOLENCE

The posts are encouraging children to attend a public place to fight, bring weapons and 'score points' for varying levels of violence.

PEER PRESSURE

Like most trends, there is an element of peer pressure that is pushing children to attend - even if they don't want to fight but just to watch.

WIDESPREAD

Due to the ease and accessibility of making and sharing the posts, this trend is becoming more widespread as more children have access to the online material including posters, photos, videos and messages.

What Are We Seeing in Schools?

INTRIGUE & HYPE

There is interest around this topic amongst students.

Many are anxious, others are excited. Lots of it is just 'hype'.

Nonetheless, popularity on the topic has been growing.

DISCUSSION

As intrigue grows, so does the discussion around it.

The more it is talked about, the greater the likelihood of something occurring.

COLOUR

Depending on the 'colour allocated' (red or blue), some students are choosing to wear items associated with rival identifiers (e.g. bandanas).

To tackle this, many schools are doing the following:

- Assemblies and lessons on the dangers of this trend.
- Increased pastoral/teacher presence around the school at the end of the day.
- Shutting down and sanctioning appropriate conversations around this topic.
- Bag checks in some of the more high profile areas of city schools.



What You Can Do as Parents/Guardians



Supervise/restrict your child's access to their phones and social media.



Speak and educate your child about the dangers of this trend and social media.



Notify school or police if your concerns grow. You can call 101 to report information or 999 if an emergency.

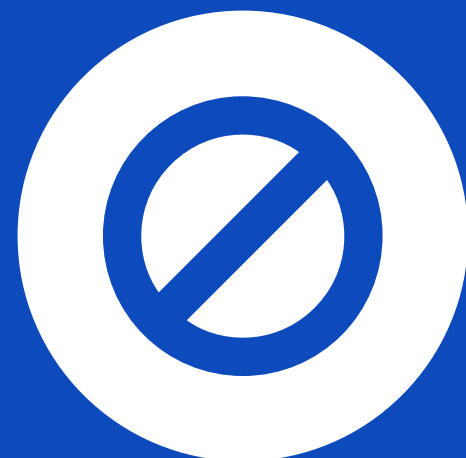
You should also be aware of your child's plans after school, especially if they intend on meeting groups of other students.



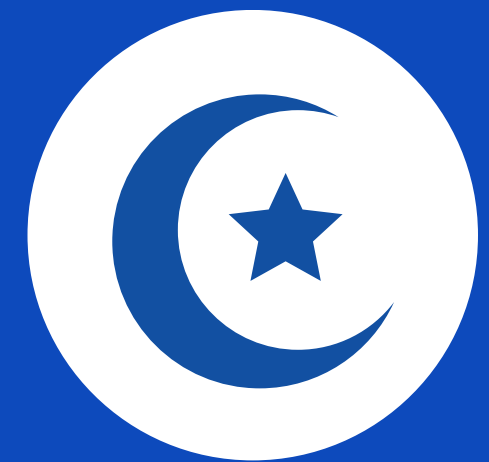
Key Points to Discuss With Your Child



It is not 'harmless banter'. Many young people have already been hurt from this trend.



It is illegal to create, share or encourage others to join this trend as it can be considered 'cyber crime'.



Encouraging violence or rivalry goes against Islamic teachings.

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